Application number 09/712,381   PATENT
Amendment dated November 5, 2004
Reply to office action mailed May 5, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After entry of this amendment claims 1-32 will be pending in this application. New claims 25-32 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found in the specification.

Claims 1-10, and 17-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Deering, U.S. Patent No. 6,525,723. Reconsideration of this rejection and allowance of all the pending claims in light of these amendments and remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 11-16 have been allowed.

Claim 1

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Deering. But Deering does not teach each and every element of this claim. For example, claim 1 recites "filtering the sub-samples which are covered by the source pixel; [and] blending the filtered sub-samples with the source pixel to create a blended sub-sample." Deering does not teach these limitations.

The pending office action cites Deering, column 18, lines 49-67 as teaching both these elements. This passage, as described by the pending office action, shows an act where all the weight samples that contribute to an output pixel are summed. (See pending office action, page 2, paragraph 2.)

But this passage simply describes a filtering act. This passage does not describe both filtering and blending acts as required by the claim.

The single filtering act described in Deering cannot be used to cover both a filtering act and a blending act. To do so would be to vitiate a claim element, namely "blending the filtered sub-samples with the source pixel to create a blended sub-sample." Moreover, filtering and blending are different acts. Filtering is an averaging, as described in the cited passage, while blending considers other factors, such as opacity and translucence. See for example, pending application, page 9 lines 1-5.

Moreover, Deering does not include a blending act. The only passage in Deering where blending is mention is column 2, lines 6, 36, and 42. These passages merely mention

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alpha blending as background information and do not describe the blending required by the claim.

Claim 1 further recites "filtering the sub-samples which are not covered by the source pixel together with the blended sub-sample." The act follows the preceding filtering and blending acts above. Deering does not teach this combination of acts.

The pending office action cites Deering column 5, lines 1-5 as showing these steps. But this passage simply shows a filter act. There is no indication that the acts described by Deering in column 18, lines 49-67 are followed by the acts in column 5, lines 1-5.

Put another way, Deering column 5, lines 1-5 describes filtering subsamples. Deering does not "filtering the sub-samples which are not covered by the source pixel together with the blended sub-sample" as is required by the claim.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 should be allowed.

Claim 7

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Deering. But Deering does not teach each and every element of this claim. For example, claim 7 recites "a blender for blending the image with the output of the first filter and providing a blender output." Deering does not teach this limitation.

The pending office action does not specify where this blender can be found in Deering, and in fact there is no mention of a blender. The background section of Deering, in column 2, at lines 6, 36, and 42, mentions alpha blending in general terms, but does not describe a blender being used for any particular purpose, and not for "blending the image with the output of the first filter and providing a blender output" as required by the claim.

For at least these reasons, claim 7 should be allowed.

Claim 17

Claim 17 stands rejected, however, claim 17 depends on an allowed claim. The undersigned believes this to be a typographical error in the pending office action. If not, then

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claim 17 depends on allowed claim 11, and should be allowed for at least the same reasons and for the additional limitations it recites.
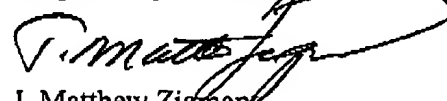
Other claims

Claim 22 should be allowed for similar reasons as claim 1. The other claims depend on these independent claims and should be allowed for at least the same reasons and for the additional limitations they recite.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal notice of allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-752-2456.

Respectfully submitted,

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